



KEN CHEVELDAYOFF

From a Provincial Point of View

July 8, 2011

CANADA DAY CELEBRATION



What a way to begin the summer! Trish, Paige and Carter and I had the

opportunity to attend the Optimist Canada Day Celebrations in Diefenbaker Park. Optimist Canada Day has been organized by the Saskatoon Optimist Club here in Saskatoon since 1967, when it started out as a celebration of Canada's centennial.

The Optimist club has grown the event from a 6 hour evening event, to an all day 8 am to 11 pm family day to celebrate the privilege and blessing of living in the best country in the world.

This year at the official ceremonies, the City of Saskatoon hosted the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, Dr. Gordon Barnhart, along with the Honourable Lynn Yelich, MP Kelly Block, MP Brad Trost, Justice Minister Honourable Don Morgan, and his Worship mayor Don Atchison. Also joining the ceremonies were representatives of the French community, the Military, Army and Navy, the RCMP, and Scouts Canada. Dr. Barnhart led the assembly of citizens through the 're-affirmation of citizenship' ceremony, where all in attendance repeated the oath of citizenship. That is a special feeling to re-affirm your citizenship in Canada. That was followed by Chris Don Levy who sang a tremendous bilingual O Canada which was followed by celebration cake sponsored by Canada Safeway (it was 4 feet by 8 feet).

The Saskatchewan Intercultural Association provided entertainment for the 3 hours followed by 6 local bands, with the evening ending with spectacular fireworks!

The chair of Optimist Canada Day is Saskatoon Silver Springs constituent Brad Sylvester. Brad has been chair for 10 of the last 15 years, and organized the official ceremonies since 1995. I would like to personally thank Brad for his service to his community, as this is just one of the many projects that he is involved in to serve his city, his province and his country. On behalf of the hundreds that attended this great celebration, thank you Brad!

CITY OF SASKATOON TAKES LEADERSHIP ROLE

The City of Saskatoon has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Communities of Tomorrow which commits the City to work with other municipalities to develop innovative infrastructure in Saskatchewan. Saskatoon is one of 14 major centres in the province to sign onto North America's first Municipal Innovation Network.

Saskatoon will invest \$50,000 in the new Leveraged Municipal Innovation Fund launched by Communities of Tomorrow. City administration will be directly involved in choosing which innovative projects the fund supports.

The Leveraged Municipal Innovation Fund is a part of the Municipal Innovation Network established by Communities of Tomorrow, which brings together municipalities, private sector companies, and Saskatchewan's research community to collaborate on the development of new infrastructure products and services.

GRAND OPENING ON SATURDAY

Warm `n` Cozy Home Care Services is having their official Grand Opening this weekend. It is fantastic to see this much needed facility right here in our community!

This is a Saskatoon based company, providing 24 hour personal support services which includes food, laundry, personal care, recreation, cleaning, help with medication, grooming and special needs. The family of residents are cared for in a home like environment.

The Grand opening takes place Saturday, July 9 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. at 502 Paton Crescent.

SASKJOBS TOPS 13,000 JOBS FOR SECOND STRAIGHT MONTH

Saskatchewan employers continue to create job opportunities in huge numbers. The Province's SaskJobs.ca website saw 13,035 job postings in June, a 45 per cent jump over June 2010. Employers from 327 Saskatchewan communities posted opportunities to the site. In the first six months of 2011, Saskatchewan employers posted 67,300 vacancies to the website, an increase of more than 13,000 over the same period in 2010.

The number of jobs posted in the Natural and Applied Science category jumped by 83 per cent. The Trades and Primary Industry categories accounted for 4,542 jobs - more than a third of the overall total, and about three quarters, almost 10,000 jobs were full-time.

Interest in applying for jobs continues to grow as well, with the number of visits to SaskJobs.ca jumping by 12 per cent over June of last year. SaskJobs hosted 821,000 visits in June - a record for that month. Once again, visits from outside of Canada saw a significant increase, with a year-over-year jump of 39 per cent.

[SaskJobs.ca](#) is Saskatchewan's largest job-matching website. The site provides job posting services free of charge for employers across the province and free résumé posting for job seekers from around the world.

[Read more...](#)

CELEBRATING SASKATCHEWAN PARKS WEEK

July 10 to July 16 has been proclaimed Saskatchewan Parks Week, by Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport Minister Bill Hutchinson.

Saskatchewan Parks Week celebrates the natural, cultural and historical landscape of our province. It also raises awareness of park programs and facilitates and promotes Saskatchewan's parks as a place to visit for fun and recreation. Saskatchewan Parks Week has been celebrated for 29 years.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of Saskatchewan's provincial parks. This important milestone will be commemorated as part of Saskatchewan Parks Week and beyond. Special Parks Week and anniversary events will be held throughout provincial parks including the annual Saskatchewan Express Parks Tour.

Hutchinson also joined other provincial and territorial ministers responsible for parks in designating July 16 as Canada's Parks Day. Canada's Parks Day is an annual event celebrating the importance of Canada's national, provincial and territorial parks. The major goal of the day is to focus public attention on conserving Canada's natural and cultural heritage, in which parks play a major role.

For further information on Saskatchewan Parks Week events, please visit www.saskparks.net.

UPDATE ON SASKATCHEWAN TEACHER BARGAINING

Representatives from the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation (STF) and the Government-Trustee Bargaining Committee (GTBC) met with Labour Relations and Workplace Safety Minister Don Morgan to receive the report from the special mediator, Richard Hornung. With the receipt of the report, the mediation process has concluded.

While a tentative agreement was not achieved directly through the mediation process, both parties have agreed that the report and recommendations will form the basis of a tentative agreement. Based on this commitment and the recommendations of the report, both parties will collaborate on the preparation of an acceptable tentative agreement to be circulated to their respective members/principals.

The STF and GTBC have agreed not to make any further comment at this time.

[Read more...](#)

SASKATCHEWAN PEOPLE EARNING MORE AND PAYING LESS IN TAXES

Saskatchewan Advantage Tax Cuts to Take Effect on Canada Day.

Saskatchewan residents are earning more and paying less in taxes, with average weekly earnings up 5.2 per cent just as lower provincial income taxes take effect tomorrow.

Saskatchewan residents will see an increase in take-home pay beginning July 1, 2011, as employers adjust their payroll deductions to reflect the income tax reductions announced in this year's provincial budget. The balance of the income tax reduction will be delivered when Saskatchewan residents file their 2011 tax returns.

The 2011-12 Budget announced a \$1,000 increase to the basic and spousal personal income tax exemptions, along with a \$500 per child increase to the exemption for dependent children.

The improvements result in a family of four paying no income tax on their first \$45,550 of earnings - the highest income threshold in Canada.

Saskatchewan workers are also earning more. According to a new report released today by Statistics Canada, average weekly earnings in Saskatchewan are now \$887.72 - an increase of 5.2 per cent over last year and the third-highest in Canada, behind only Alberta and Ontario.

Higher wages and lower taxes means Saskatchewan is moving forward.

Small businesses will also pay much lower taxes starting July 1, 2011. The small business tax rate will be cut by more than half from 4.5 per cent to two per cent.

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CHAMBER ON BUSINESS LUNCHEON

It was a pleasure to attend the "State of the Health Region" address presented by Maura Davies, President & Chief Executive Officer, Saskatoon Health Region.

Maura shared a few highlights from last year and talked about their top five priorities. These priorities include meeting surgical volume and wait time targets, improving medication safety, decreasing falls and falls-related serious injuries in Long Term Care, improving staff health and wellness and plan for the Children's Hospital.

Maura has over 35 years' experience in health care as a clinical dietician, educator and senior executive. She has a Bachelor degree in science, a Bachelor degree in education and a Masters degree in health services administration. Maura is a Fellow of the Canadian College of Health Service Executives and a surveyor for Accreditation Canada. Maura is the Board Chair of the Canadian Patient Safety Institute, and is on the boards of directors for the Association of Canadian Academic Health care Organizations, Saskatchewan Academic Health Sciences Network and Saskatchewan Health Quality Council. She holds a part time faculty appointment in the Department of Community Health and Epidemiology at the University of Saskatchewan. Maura has been recognized as one of the Top10 Women of Influence in Saskatchewan by Saskatchewan Business Magazine and as one of Canada's Top 100 Most Powerful Women by the Women's Executive Network.

The Saskatoon Health Region is the largest health region in Saskatchewan, providing a comprehensive range of services and programs including acute care, long term care, public health, home care, mental health and addiction services. All work in the SHR is guided by the core values of respect, collaboration, excellence and stewardship.

The Chamber of Commerce continues to have excellent speakers at their luncheons. I encourage you to attend if you have the opportunity.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS REFLECT STRONG ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN 2010-11

The Public Accounts show the Saskatchewan economy recovered strongly in 2010-11, producing \$1.1 billion more revenue than expected at budget.

This was due mainly to improvements in tax revenue and in non-renewable resource revenue as the economy gathered strength following a global recession.

The stronger revenues allowed the government to make needed expenditures on third party capital projects, and the Saskatchewan Surgical Initiative as well as deal with flooding damage across the province. As a result, overall expense was \$841 million higher than anticipated.

The province finished the year with a pre-transfer surplus of \$96 million in the General Revenue Fund (GRF), or \$270 million more than expected at budget.

The Growth and Financial Security Fund (GFSF) finished the year with a balance of just over \$1 billion, up \$242 million from budget. Government general debt was unchanged from the previous year at \$4.1 billion.

Revenues were up from budget in all categories except federal transfers, including the following:

- Non-renewable resource revenue was up \$420 million, due mainly to higher Crown land sales and higher than expected oil prices.
- Tax revenue was up \$272 million due mainly to stronger than expected Corporate Income Tax, offset by smaller than expected individual income tax revenue.
- Crown transfers were up \$196 million, due mainly to a special Crown Investments Corporation(CIC) dividend for the Children's Hospital in Saskatoon.
- Expenses were up \$841 million from budget, including the following:
- Health was up \$346 million from budget due mainly to investments in the Children's Hospital, long term care projects, the surgical initiative, and new equipment.
- Agriculture was up \$97 million, mainly because of the Excess Moisture Program.
- Advanced Education was up \$89 million mainly for the Academic Health Sciences Centre and maintenance costs.
- Corrections, Public Safety and Policing up \$54 million, mainly due to flooding claims under the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program (PDAP).
- Social Services was up \$42 million, due mainly to rental housing development and social housing renovations.
- Energy and Resources was up \$40 million to pay for cleanup of abandoned uranium mines in northern Saskatchewan.
- Environment was up \$40 million for flood relief through the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority.

[Read more. . .](#)

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Happiness comes through doors you didn't even know you had left open.

JUST THE HEADLINES – www.gov.sk.ca/news

Jul. 8, 2011 - SASK'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS, REMAINS LOWEST IN CANADA
Jul. 7, 2011 - WEEKLY PROVINCIAL HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION UPDATE
Jun. 29, 2011 - PERSONAL PROTECTION URGED FOR WEST NILE VIRUS RISK PERIOD
Jun. 29, 2011 - PROVINCE ANNOUNCES FRANCOPHONE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE FUND
Jun. 28, 2011 - SASKATCHEWAN STUDENTS CREATE WINNING ENVIRONMENTAL ART WORK
Jun. 28, 2011 - SASKATCHEWAN ATTENDING WORLD'S LARGEST BIOTECHNOLOGY EVENT IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

DID YOU KNOW ? ? ?

- Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan performances begin July 6 and run through to August 21. This year's productions include The Winter's Tale and Love's Labour's Lost.
- There are over 400 acres of riverbank trails and parks for hiking and biking in Saskatoon.

KEEP IN TOUCH

I appreciate the many opportunities to make a positive difference in my constituency. Your phone calls, letters and emails make a big difference in keeping me informed on the issues that matter to you. If you would like to recognize anyone or have your event mentioned in this newsletter, please don't hesitate to call me.



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“From a Provincial Point of View” is a weekly message from Ken Cheveldayoff, MLA Saskatoon Silver Springs. Your opinions are important and your letters, emails and phone calls on any issues relating to the provincial government are welcomed. Contact Ken by calling (306) 651-7100, emailing ken.cheveldayoff.mla@sasktel.net or writing Ken Cheveldayoff, MLA Saskatoon Silver Springs, 1106A Central Avenue, Saskatoon, SK S7N 2H1. **To subscribe or be removed from this newsletter, please send an email message.** This newsletter is produced with the assistance of the Saskatchewan Party Caucus Office.